

**Scoping Notice for TOMICHI Creek Exploration Project**  
Molybdenum and Copper Exploration/Tomichi Resources

The Forest Service has received a proposed Plan of Operations (PoO) to explore for molybdenum and copper in the area of Tomichi Creek, of Gunnison County. Tomichi Resources, LLC, a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of Burnstone Ventures, Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia, holds valid unpatented mining claims under the 1872 Mining Act, and is proposing to drill nine exploration holes on these claims. The purpose of this exploration drilling is to confirm mineralogy found in previous exploration. Drilling locations were located based on the known geology of the area, as well as historic records of drilling on site.

A copy of this scoping notice, as well as the full text of, and all attachments to, the proposed PoO, is posted on the web at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/projects>, click on Sort by: Name, then scroll down to Tomichi Creek Exploration Project.

The proposed exploration area is located within the Gunnison National Forest, approximately 2 miles northeast of White Pine, Colorado, along the western slopes of the continental divide and east of Tomichi Creek. Maps which are part of the PoO posted on the web show the location of proposed activities.

Access to the project area is by National Forest System Road 888. All drill locations are located within the existing road prism of existing roads. Drilling will be done using a portable/track mounted drill rig. No drill pad or new road construction is proposed. The amount of ground disturbance associated is essentially the same as would be associated with routine road maintenance.

Drill holes will be up to 2800 feet in depth. A 2 7/8 inch diameter core will be removed. All cuttings, water, and base core fluids will be captured and contained in poly or steel tanks. Water gathered from drill holes will be reused. Drill water will be obtained via non-mechanized siphon and flex poly tubing from Robbins Creek. Application for surface water rights has been made by Tomichi Resources to the State of Colorado.

Upon completion of each hole, drill sediments will be mixed with concrete and placed in the top 10 foot of the hole to form a plug to prevent surface water infiltration. Roads will be restored to better-than-found condition, consistent with their designations in the Gunnison Travel Decision of 2011.

The number of people on-site at any one time would be 4-6. There will be a 3- person drill crew including supervisor/foreman, plus geologist and/or assistant geologist. Crews will work two-twelve hour shifts in ten day segments. The project crew will be housed on fee land adjacent to the project - site. Portable toilets will be provided for the crew near the exploration activities, and sewage removed weekly. Garbage/ refuse will be contained and removed from the site daily. Emergency fuel-spill clean-up/ mitigation supplies will be stored and available on-site.

Recreationists routinely travel through the project area on quads, ATVs, dirt bikes, and standard high-clearance four wheel drive vehicles. Utilizing standard traffic control barricades and signals, recreational

access to individual road segments will be closed while drilling occurs on that particular road segment. Because NFSR 888.3A is a loop, alternative access routes across the project area will be available to recreational travelers at all times. Work is proposed to take place during all seasons, but to be completed within one year.

The Forest Service has accepted the Proposed Plan of Operations per Locatable Mineral Regulations at 36 CFR 228, and will process the application under procedures of those same regulations. With respect to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) , at this time it is thought this proposal may be categorically excluded from preparation of either an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment, in accordance with regulations at 36 CFR 220.(e)(8). Short-term (1 year or less) mineral energy, or geophysical investigations .....” The responsible official is District Ranger John Murphy.

Although categorically excluded from more extensive NEPA procedures, projects such as this are “scoped” to ensure all public issues or concerns are made know to the agency. The Forest Service is accepting comments on this proposed plan of operations. To be most helpful, and timely, as we consider our decision, comments should be submitted by September 16, 2011.

Comments in writing are most helpful. Comments may be sent to: Tomichi Project, Forest Service 216 N. Colorado, Gunnison, CO 81230, or electronically to [comments-rocky-mountain-gmug@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-gmug@fs.fed.us).

For more information contact Jeff Burch, Project Coordinator, 970-874-6649.